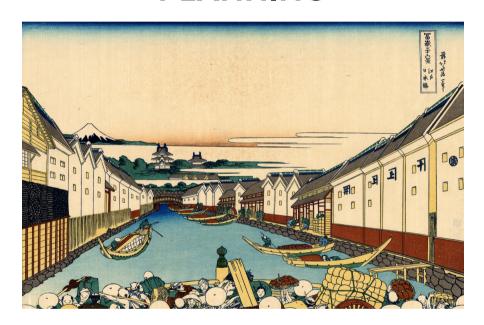
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JFLA Lecture Series 37

MAGIC AND POWER IN EDO'S CITY PLANNING



Katsushika Hokusai Nihonbashi Bridge in Edo

Edo (modern Tokyo) was built to be the Tokugawa seat in 1590, and in 1603 it became headquarters of their shogunate. It was carefully planned to meet ancestral expectations of how an impressive East Asian metropolis should look, entailing a certain alignment of streets, with temples positioned in designated locations, according to magical criteria. It also took over aspects of the medieval castle town, where warriors had displayed their power. But Edo was more than this. It was the first city in Japanese history to have a central iconic core. This lecture will introduce the various requirements and expectations that went into the layout of Edo.

Friday, December 2, 7pm

Venue:

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles (5700 Wilshire Blvd., #100 Los Angeles, CA 90036)

Street parking is available near JFLA. Click here for parking info.

This event is full.

About lecturer



Timon Screech is Professor of the History of Art at SOAS, University of London. He has also studied at several institutions in the EU, Japan and the USA. Screech is the author of some dozen books on the visual culture of the Edo period. His PhD was published as *The Lens Within the Heart: The Western Scientific Gaze and Popular Imagery in Later Edo Japan* (CUP 1996) and is still in print in a second edition (Curzon, 2002). Perhaps his best-known work is *Sex and the Floating World: Erotic Images in Japan, 1700-1820* (Reaktion, 1999; second, expanded, 2009). More recently, he has introduced and edited the writings of two 18th-century travellers, as, *Japan Extolled and Decried: Carl Peter Thunberg and the Shogun's Realm, 1775-1796* (Routledge, 2005), and *Secret Memoirs of the Shoguns: Isaac Titsingh and Japan, 1779-1822* (Routledge, 2006).

His field-defining general study, *Obtaining Images: Art, Production and Display in Edo Japan* was published in 2012 (Reaktion Books/Hawaii University Press) and will be paperbacked in 2017.

He has just completed a book on the early history of the East India Company and its role in cultural exchange, and he is currently writing the Oxford History of Japanese Art.

Screech's numerous writings have been translated into French, Japanese, Korean, Polish and Romanian.

This event is co-organized by:

The Tadashi Yanai Initiative for Globalizing Japanese Humanities

Upcoming Events

JAPANEMA = Japanese Cinema

Arts & Culture Grants	
Rental Exhibitions	
Past Events: Lecture Series	~
JFLA Lecture Series 60	
JFLA Lecture Series 59	
JFLA Lecture Series 58	
JFLA Lecture Series 57	
JFLA Lecture Series 56	
JFLA Lecture Series 55	
JFLA Lecture Series 54	
JFLA Lecture Series 53	
JFLA Lecture Series 52	
JFLA Lecture Series 51	
JFLA Lecture Series 50	
JFLA Lecture Series 49	
JFLA Lecture Series 48	
JFLA Lecture Series 47	
JFLA Lecture Series 46	
JFLA Lecture Series 45	
JFLA Lecture Series 44	
JFLA Lecture Series 43	

JFLA Lecture Series 42	
JFLA Lecture Series 41	
JFLA Lecture Series 40	
JFLA Lecture Series 39	
JFLA Lecture Series 38	
JFLA Lecture Series 37	
JFLA Lecture Series 36	
JFLA Lecture Series 35	
JFLA Lecture Series 34	
JFLA Lecture Series 33	
JFLA Lecture Series 32	
JFLA Lecture Series 31	
JFLA Lecture Series 30	
JFLA Lecture Series 29	
JFLA Lecture Series 28	
JFLA Lecture Series 27	
JFLA Lecture Series 26	
JFLA Lecture Series 25	
JFLA Lecture Series 24	
JFLA Lecture Series 23	
JFLA Lecture Series 22	

JFLA Lecture Series 21
JFLA Lecture Series 20
JFLA Lecture Series 19
JFLA Lecture Series 18
JFLA Lecture Series 17
JFLA Lecture Series 16
JFLA Lecture Series 15
JFLA Lecture Series 14
JFLA Lecture Series 13
JFLA Lecture Series 12
JFLA Lecture Series 11
JFLA Lecture Series 10
JFLA Lecture Series 09
JFLA Lecture Series 08
JFLA Lecture Series 07
JFLA Lecture Series 06
JFLA Lecture Series 05
JFLA Lecture Series 04
JFLA Lecture Series 03
JFLA Lecture Series 02
JFLA Lecture Series 01

Past Events: Lecture Series

Past Events: Exhibitions

Past Events: Others

Past Events: Japanema

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